

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 10 and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 3 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 4 with the additional feature that the method comprises the step of screening the effect of a test compound on ghrelin expression and/or secretion. Support for this additional feature can be found *inter alia* on page 5, lines 7-8 and page 5, lines 19-28.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite that the method claimed is a method for developing drugs or functional ingredients for food products that modulate feelings of satiety or appetite in humans or animals. Support for this amendment can be found on page 3, lines 13-16.

The Office points to no mention by Atten et al. of Ghrelin. The disclosure of Ji et al. concerns analysis of gene expression profiles in certain cancer cell lines, amongst which are RF-1 and RF-48. The Office points to no reference to ghrelin, let alone to the expression and/or secretion thereof by RF-1 and RF-48 or to any methods of incubating any of the cell lines disclosed therein with whatever test compound. It is therefore submitted that the subject-matter of amended claim 3 and claims depending therefrom is novel and has inventive merit vis a vis the cited art.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application, as amended, be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GJM', is written over a horizontal line.

Gerard J. McGowan, Jr.

Registration No. 29,412

Attorney for Applicant(s)

GJM/mpk
(201) 894-2297